



Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2018

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Education**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.35 pm): I am honoured to have been appointed the shadow minister for education and industrial relations and Manager of Opposition Business by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly when it comes to the education space as I have three young children currently being state educated at Meridan State College. With my three children I can see firsthand the issues and challenges young people are facing. Also from talking to principals, P&Cs, community members and parents around the state I get an understanding of the issues faced by them.

In the education space we only have to look at the comments made recently by teachers who have been in the profession for 20 or 30 years. They are expressing publicly concern about where the education system is headed in Queensland. We should take no pride in teachers who have been in the system for 20 or 30 years saying that they are fed up with the system now. They are saying that it is all about statistics, analysis and tests, that children are not able to be children and children, particularly young boys, are not able to be young boys in prep and year 1 and that children's education is being stifled because of that. Our education system seems to be wrapped up in NAPLAN, statistics, how many people turn up to exams and the amount of homework kids are getting.

My commitment to Queensland families and my three children is that in this role as shadow minister for education I will tackle these issues. I am going to talk to my children about these things and their experiences at school so that we can ensure that teachers are not leaving the profession. We will be guided by the advice of teachers, particularly those who have been in the profession for many years.

We have some great schools. In my electorate we have Meridan State College, Talara Primary College, Kawana Waters State College, Pacific Lutheran College and Buddina State School. We have a new school in my patch, the Currimundi State School. I went there the other day for their leadership induction ceremony. We have some bright, talented, young students in our schools right around Queensland.

It concerns me that we have seen teachers coming out publicly in the last 12 months to two years saying that they are leaving the education profession because of the stress that is caused. That can be fixed by governments. That can be fixed government policies and curriculum.

We need to look at the bullying issue and the mobile phone issue. We in the Liberal National Party have said that we will survey people to see whether they think there should be a mobile phone ban. I recognise students need their technological devices for learning now, but I do not think kids in the playground need to be instagramming, snapchatting or facebooking each other during lunch breaks. I think a lot of the bullying stems from those online devices. We know it happens not only at school but also outside the school environment on their way home or in their homes. From the Liberal National

Party's perspective we will give whatever commitment we can to ensure that we have the best policies and practices in place going forward. We will work with the government in terms of their task force on bullying and cyberbullying. We will attempt to get the best possible scenarios we can.

In my other space of industrial relations, I am horrified at comments that Bill Shorten has made recently about the lockout at the Oaky North mine. We have debated motions in this parliament about miners blockading non-striking members from that site. They have threatened to rape the families' children. They have threatened people to crash their vehicle into a tree on their way home from work. They have made all of these threats. They have said, 'I'll attack you with a crowbar,' and, 'I'll rip out your spine, you dog.' They are CFMEU members targeting non-striking members. Bill Shorten said at the time that he condemned it. It has now been revealed that at the time those comments were being made Bill Shorten was saying how great the CFMEU was. He said in an address to the CFMEU—

You should also say to your families that Bill and Brendan have the highest respect for the mining and engineering division of the CFMEU. These people will be with you the whole way, always have been and always are, always will be. If we form a government, yeah, we'll do the right thing, we won't let you down. The privilege for us today is to be in your company.

Bill Shorten says one thing in front of the CFMEU—thugs that threaten to rape kids—and one thing in front of others. He is a hypocrite. He is a hypocrite of the highest order. The Labor government in Queensland should be ashamed of themselves because they look up to Bill Shorten. Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland, looks up to Bill Shorten. They should condemn the comments that he has made to the CFMEU members.

*(Time expired)*